

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheet attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figure 3 is being presented as a new formal drawing sheet to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheet. Figure 3 has been amended.

The specific change made to Figure 3 includes a “prior art” designation. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Status of the Claims:

Claims 7 and 8 have been added. Claim 1 has been amended. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 –Ashibe.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 7,279,639 B2 (Ashibe). The Examiner notes that claims 1-4 were rejected under the Ashibe reference, but additionally provides comments for rejecting claims 5 and 6. The rejection is respectfully traversed, in view of the claims as amended herein.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a joint for a superconducting cable, the joint being for jointing two lengths of the superconducting cable with each other, the superconducting cable comprising a former, a superconducting conductor, and an insulating layer; the construction of the joint comprising the steps of: (a) preparing a jointing ferrule for jointing the formers; (b) sliding the jointing ferrule over the end portions of the formers to be jointed; (c) butting the end faces of the formers against each other in the jointing ferrule; (d) compressing the jointing ferrule onto the end portions of the formers to be jointed so as to joint the formers such that the compressed ferrule and one of the end portions have a combined diameter approximately equal to that of a remaining portion of the former of the superconducting cable; (e) butting the end faces of the superconducting conductors to be jointed against each other at the outside of the compressed ferrule; and (f) jointing the superconducting conductors with each other such that the jointed superconducting conductors have a diameter equal to that of the superconducting conductor of the superconducting cable.

Claim 1 is neither taught, suggested, nor rendered predictable by the Ashibe reference. In particular, claim 1 recites, among other features, compressing the jointing ferrule onto the end portions of the formers to be jointed so as to joint the formers such that the compressed ferrule

and one of the end portions have a combined diameter approximately **equal** to that of a remaining portion of the former of the superconducting cable. The Ashibe reference does not disclose or suggest these features.

The Ashibe reference discloses a connection sleeve (19) compression-connected to a former (11) of a cable core (10). *See* col. 7 ll. 7-15 and Fig. 2A of the Ashibe reference. The connection sleeve and the former combine to form a first diameter, while a remaining portion of the former has a second diameter. In contrast, to amended claim 1, the combined diameter (of the connection sleeve and the former) is significantly greater than – and thus neither equal nor approximately equal to – the diameter of the remaining portion of the former. As such, the Ashibe reference does **not** disclose or suggest compressing the jointing ferrule onto the end portions of the formers to be jointed so as to joint the formers such that the compressed ferrule and one of the end portions have a combined diameter approximately **equal** to that of a remaining portion of the former of the superconducting cable. Therefore, the Ashibe reference does not anticipate claim 1.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 (directly or indirectly) and are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the rejections of claims 1-6, as amended herein, are respectfully traversed.

New Claims:

New claims 7 and 8 are added to further protect additional features of the present invention.

Claim 7 generally recites, among other features, the remaining portion of the former is adjacent the end portion of the former. This claim is supported by the original application, for example, in Fig. 1, which shows an example of the end portion (below ferrule (300)) of the former (200) being adjacent the remaining portion of the former (200) and is not compressed with the ferrule (300). This claim is further distinguished from the cited reference in that the

Ashibe reference does not disclose that the remaining portion of the former is adjacent the end portion of the former. Accordingly, this claim is believed to be allowable. Moreover, claim 7 is believed to be allowable at least for the reasons of its parent claim.

Claim 8 generally recites, among other features, the remaining portion of the former is not in contact with the jointing ferrule. This claim is supported by the original application, for example, in Fig. 1, which discloses the remaining portion of the former (200) not being in contact with the ferrule (300). This claim is further distinguished from the cited reference in that the Ashibe reference does not disclose that the remaining portion of the former is not in contact with the jointing ferrule. Accordingly, this claim is believed to be allowable. Moreover, claim 8 is believed to be allowable at least for the reasons of its parent claim.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to

Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Date

9/3/08

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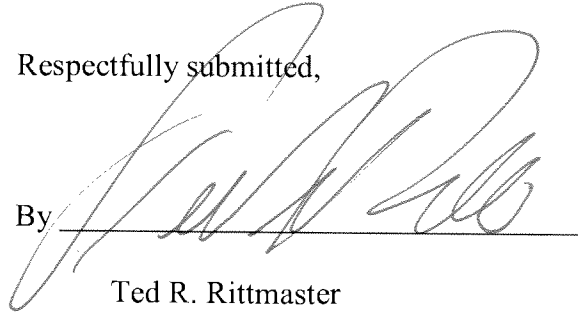
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Respectfully submitted,

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